LOADSTAR LETTER #28

November 1995. Special Freedom Online Issue. Our Readers discuss freedom and moral obligation online.

Criminal Element Using C-64s?

by Jeff Jones. A few weeks ago while preparing to watch an episode of Martin on FOX, I spotted something I thought I'd never see again on television. That's right -- a mint condition Commodore 64 box. The only problem was, the box was in the garage of an alleged perpetrator. As the police stormed the house through the adjoining garage, they panned right past the Commodore paraphernalia. Some may remember an editorial of mine from about two years back where I hinted that some day C-64s would be illegal. Prophecy? You be the judge.

Conjugating Data

by Jeff Jones. Alright! That does it! Who cares if *data* is the plural of *datum*? *Data* can refer to a singularity or a group, but I just can't stand to see phrases like "the data are correct..." I came across this phrase for the 1000th time in my lab assignment at Louisiana State University. I hear "the data are.." in many a lecture. Being an editor, I always think to myself, I'd never write that. Whether or not "data" refers to a bit of data or a file ten terabytes in size, data is singular.

Data can refer to a group of items, but once you *name* many items as one group with the word, *data*, I say that you've named *one thing* and any verb used with that thing should reflect the *singularity*. Let me explain with the following examples:

The subject is **bold** and the verb is in *italics*.

1. Ten **cows** *are* a herd.
2. A **herd** *is* ten **cows**.
3. Ten **cows** *are* coming.
4. One **herd** *is* coming.
5. The **byte** *is* correct.
6. The **bytes** *are* correct.
7. **Thousands** of bytes *are* correct.
8. The **collection** of thousands of bytes *is* correct.
9. The **data** *is* correct.

Am I the only English purist who cares about this rampant abuse of computerese? I welcome the Email of anyone who disagrees. If you disagree, please give examples to: LOADSTAR@GENIE.GEIS.COM or call the BBS.

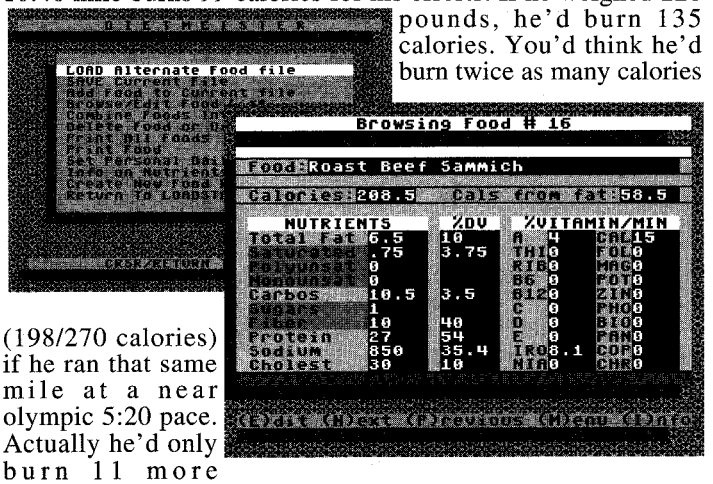
Two LOADSTAR Contests Coming To A Close

by Jeff Jones. Time is running out fast. Your chances of winning or placing in our CodeQuest '95 (programming contest) or ProseQuest '95 (writing contest) are still quite good. The deadlines are the end of the year. To date LOADSTAR has paid out thousands of dollars in prize money and hardware in these contests, but you have to hurry to get in on the loot.

Check out the STAR BOARD on the disk this month for full details. If you have a prize program or a few short stories that you are proud of, send them to LOADSTAR on a Commodore disk. The only thing you have to lose is a disk -- unless you send a SASE -- then you lose more in postage!

DietMeister Tips

by Jeff Jones. A few changes for DietMeister (my digital baby, published on this issue) users. First, the calories given for a 5 mile run and one hour walk weren't accurate enough. Here's data that can be put to better use. Whether you walk or run, what matters is how far you travel. the distance traveled equals the work done. The work done equals the calories burned. Speed is only a small factor. For instance a 160-pound man who runs a 10:40 mile burns 99 calories for his efforts. If he weighed 220 pounds, he'd burn 135 calories. You'd think he'd burn twice as many calories



(198/270 calories) if he ran that same mile at a near olympic 5:20 pace. Actually he'd only burn 11 more calories. In order to burn twice the calories, the runner would have to run twice the miles -- at either pace.

If you're interested in tracking activities with DietMeister and you weigh 160 pounds or less, enter 99 calories for one mile whether you walk or run that mile. If you're a 220 pounder (or around that), enter 135. Don't forget to enter negative helpings when combining activities with foods.

For daily use you can combine all the foods you've eaten and then examine the dish. Don't save the file after you've done this unless you want a permanent record of the day's intake.

Brain Innovations' Commodore World Wide Web Site Rated Top 5% of Internet Sites

Jim Brain and Brain Innovations, Inc., announced today that its Commodore World Wide Web Site had been rated in the top 5% of all sites on the Internet by Point Survey, a World Wide Web Site rating service sponsored by Point Communications Corporation. The Commodore site includes informational material, pointers to online resources, pictures, and historical documentation on the popular home computer, manufactured in the early 1980's by Commodore Business Machines, now Amiga Technologies. The site is viewable at *http://www.msen.com/~brain/cbmhome.html*

This information is presented on the World Wide Web, a graphical multimedia hypertext service on the Internet, a large collection of networked computer systems encompassing much of the world. The World Wide Web, or WWW, presents textual and

Copyright 1995 by J & F Publishing, Inc. LOADSTAR is a monthly "magazine on disk" for the Commodore 64/128. Subscribers receive two 1541 disks (or one 1581 disk) in their mailbox every month filled with news, articles and programs. These non-PD, high-quality programs. Subscription prices are $69.95 for a 12-month subscription or $19.95 for a 3-month subscription. You may also elect to subscribe "by the month", where we charge your credit card $7.95 for each issue *after* it's shipped. The Loadstar Letter is published monthly by J & F Publishing as a companion to LOADSTAR and LOADSTAR 128 Quarterly. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced without the permission of J & F Publishing. Newsbytes stories are licensed from the **Newsbytes News Network, and are exclusively copyrighted by Newsbytes.** J & F Publishing cannot give permission to reprint Newsbytes articles. LOADSTAR LETTER contacts: INTERNET: LOADSTAR@GENIE.GEIS.COM GEnie: LOADSTAR US MAIL: ATTN Jeff Jones, J & F Publishing P.O. Box 30008, Shreveport, LA 71130-0008 318/221-8718. Fax 318/221-8870. BBS 1-318-425-4382. Leave feedback or email "Jeff Jones" 2400/8n1. N.I.S.S.A. Network

graphical information from areas called "sites" and displays the information in "pages". The concept of WWW allows a variety of content to be gathered into a single source to perusal by online users.

Point Survey is a free service which rates and reviews only the best sites on the World Wide Web. Point provides Internet users with a standard of excellence: a catalog of the most lively, useful, and fun sites on the Internet. Point Survey is on the World Wide Web at http:www.pointcom.com/

Point's ratings are based solely on merit as judged by Point's reviewers.

Point Survey ratings are made available to media around the world, and Point's Top Ten list has been featured on CNN and in many publications. In addition to the rating, Point Communications will include the Brain Innovations site information and a screen shot of the site in its upcoming book, tentatively entitled, "The 1000 Best Sites on the Internet".

Brain Innovations President Jim Brain said the Point Survey rating will provide more exposure for the Commodore site, which is maintained by his company as a free service. The site, which currently tracks over 700 visitors daily, combines the technology of the World Wide Web with the popularity of the Commodore computer systems in one dynamic multimedia exhibition. Brain notes that the both new and experienced Commodore owners can find information of interest and pointers to suppliers and repair facilities from the site.

Brain Innovations, Incorporated is an Internet consulting and embedded hardware/software development company based in Fenton, Michigan.

Contact:Jim Brain brain@mail.msen.com (Email address)
Brain Innovations, Inc. (810) 750-2723

Freedom Online Discussion From LOADSTAR's BBS

The following discussion came from LOADSTAR's BBS. It's a bit dated, but relevant to today's discussions on electronic freedom. The Senate smut bill has died, and Prodigy was found not liable for the post mentioned in the following discussion.

30 [007] --- "Internet Hassles"
By: BLACK SABER @ CHM
On: Tue Oct 3, 1995 1:21 PM
LR: Sat Oct 28, 1995 1:43 AM
-- 7 Responses --

This is some information that was sent to me recently, and it has some very valid points. You might want to read it:
From: RANGE ROVER (UID#0)
Date: Jul 24, 1995 12:13 PM
From: Charles Clayton

ATTENTION!

To all fellow Internet and bulletin board users,

FEDS ATTACK INTERNET FREEDOM!

A New York judge recently ruled that Prodigy could be held liable for a message posted by a subscriber criticizing a New York investment firm. If this is allowed to stand it would establish a precedent which would virtually destroy our freedom to post messages...both private e-mail and public messages. The federal Government (morality police) are about to pass several regulations which will destroy the freedom on the Internet. Self appointed holders of the moral "high ground", in the fashion of the Salem witch hunters, have decided that they know what is best for Internet users. The May, 1995 issue of PC WORLD magazine has an article on this latest example of Federal arrogance and excess. Unless we, each and every Internet and bulletin board user, do something, the following oppressive laws will be passed:

No. 1-- Senate Bill 314, House Bill 1004, "Communications Decency act of 1995" (The feds will decide what is "decent")

No. 2-- House Bill 112, "Electronic Anti-Stalking Act of 1995" (The feds will decide what is a "complaint". This could include a flame or strong argument.)

No. 3-- House Bill 666 -- "Exclusionary Reform Act of 1995" (Feds can break into and search your home without worrying about certain search warrant requirements by courts.)

Please re-post this message to anyone and everyone you can think of on the Internet, bulletin boards, and other online services. Phone, FAX, write, or Email your Senator and Congressman. If we, the Internet users, allow this to happen big brother will be watching and we deserve to lose our freedom of the net to self appointed witch hunters like Senator Jim Exon (D-Neb)! Act now!

Unfortunately, freedom is not free and we must fight now or forever hold our peace. Once the Internet is regulated we will not get it deregulated. Your much needed contributions to fund NetGu@rd's fight for freedom on the Internet should be made to:

[address censored by Jeff -- just in case. And, no, the irony doesn't escape me.]

-Response #1 of 7-
By BLIND SEEKER @ S13
On Thu Oct 5, 1995 7:20 AM

Before anyone goes ballistic, get the facts. The reason Prodigy can be held liable is because they reserve the right to edit any message posted to their system. I think the term is editorial license. In doing so they left themselves in the same fix that a magazine or other edited media find themselves in. I don't put this in the same light as the house bills posted.

-Response #2 of 7-
By SMS MIKE @ DMB
On Sat Oct 7, 1995 2:10 AM

Unfortunately hold our peace. Once the Internet is regulated we will not get it deregulated. Your much needed contributions to fund NetGu@rd's fight for freedom on the Internet should be made to

Quoted from BLACK SABER @ CMAG

They were doing just dandy until that part about "MONEY" and contributions.

Who is to say that our bucks are going to be used properly? Why do they need money and "what is the plan?" Are they an official lobby? Who heads up the team?

It doesn't require MONEY to write letters to congress. Well, maybe 32 cents, but that isn't much.

Sorry, but it sounds like a "Scam" to me!!
SMS MIKE (SUPER Skumbag of the South)

-Response #3 of 7-
By MT. MUTOMBO @ CAV
On Tue Oct 10, 1995 2:32 AM

And you all wonder why I vote for Democrats??? (if there were a Socialist candidate I'd vote for him/her)

Republicans, still repress only the rich and the religious (christians).

-Response #6 of 7-
By PRISM @ SPT
On Tue Oct 24, 1995 1:55 PM

This may seem like an odd question, but who 'owns' the Internet? Is it a particular person (or persons) or a company? I was wondering about this a few days ago & couldn't come up with an answer... :(

-Response #4 of 7-
By SMS MIKE @ DMB
On Tue Oct 10, 1995 2:33 AM

Mt. Mutombo: I don't see the Democrats or the Republicans representing anyone but their own self interests. They both seem to live for one reason; screw over the other party at all cost.

In the end, nobody wins, and the people end up with the short end of the stick.... It's an interesting game. I watch, but I just wish the outcome wasn't so darn serious. The players on both sides seem to have lost sight of the fact that "Their moves" are causing a bunch of pain for many, many people.

I do believe that the Internet is beyond their control. It grew up all by itself, free from government intervention. The protection devices are in place to keep it that way. They might beat down a couple of "doors" but the structure will survive in spite of their best efforts. The Internet can adapt much faster than the Government can. By the time the Government even acknowledges the problem, the Internet can shift gears and point them in another direction. We can run them in circles for years.

SMS MIKE (SUPER Skumbag of the South)

To: Prism:

Nobody owns the Internet. It's a group of independent systems tied together by the operators of those systems for the exchange of information and programs. It's a bit like CommNet, but has huge mainframe computers acting as major hubs on multiline (real time) connections.

SMS MIKE (SUPER Skumbag of the South)

Continued on Page 4 ➡

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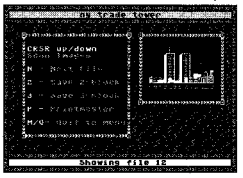

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*** No, we didn't misspell "complete." Compleat is the ten dollar spelling of complete.**

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-Response #5 of 7-
By ROCKET MAN @ GIH
On Thu Oct 12, 1995 6:19 PM

I am sure, given time, that our government will figure out a way to tax Internet usage. Until then, enjoy it while you can.

Foul Language Online. Should It Be Policed?

31 [012] --- "language!!"
By: SAM (SP# 26) @ SPT
On: Tue Oct 3, 1995 1:26 PM
LR: Sat Oct 21, 1995 6:22 AM
-- 12 Responses --

I have to say that some of the language here leaves a lot to be desired! Don't some of you realize that there are kids calling here?

It would be nice if this would stop, if you are angry about someone/something, try to say it in a different way, please.

-Response #1 of 12-
By SMS MIKE @ DMB
On Tue Oct 3, 1995 1:33 PM

We have been down this road many times in the past Sam. Personally, I have not noticed any words used in the posts that I have not heard on NBC, CBS and ABC television shows and the news.

Life isn't always pretty my friend. The language we use is NOT always found in the dictionary. We humans are an emotional lot, and tend to lean towards more powerful words when expressing our stronger feelings.

You didn't really say what you meant by "language" but I assume that you are referring to what you consider to be "profanity."

All well and good... However, kindly define "profanity" for us. I want a global definition which includes not only words, but ideas. I can tell you for an absolute fact that a person can express an Idea or a Belief that you will think is absolutely profane, and that person can use perfectly acceptable "public" English while doing so.

Where would you care to draw the line Sam? Are we to exclude words, ideas, or both?

SMS MIKE (SUPER Skumbag of the South) DiamondBack BBS. The Voice of the Pearako Network! Miami, Fla.

-Response #2 of 12-
By JEFF JONES-LSD1
On Wed Oct 4, 1995 9:00 AM

My two cents is that all people should curb the use of adult language. There are people in Washington with corks firmly planted in their rectums who want to punish us sysops if a child reads YOUR bad words.

So if you like BBSing, particularly on "networks accessible by minors..." then please refrain from cursing. All it takes is one prude walking by while a four letter-word is scrolling by on a monitor and there COULD be a lawsuit -- or worse.

-Response #3 of 12-
By RAVEN @ TRN
On Sat Oct 7, 1995 7:46 PM

Thank you Sam I'm gonna have to agree with you there the profanity we all can live without however it does have a place in the SEX sub if a board carries this sub I hope they do not allow kids (under 18) in there don't that make your mind wonder? I carry the sub and Nope I don't let them in.

-Response #4 of 12-
By THE FEZ-LSD262
On Sun Oct 8, 1995 10:33 PM

SMS, we all know that this world is not pretty, but that is no excuse for uglying it up some more! Foul language is just that - foul. You yourself acknowledge that an intelligent person can express themselves without resorting to profanity.

There is no need for profanity here. Besides, you and I do a good job of offending each other without four-letter words, I'm sure others can too.

-Response #5 of 12-
By JEFF JONES-LSD1
On Sun Oct 8, 1995 11:18 PM

I have no problem with "foul" language. My main problem with foul language is that OTHER people have a problem with it. Like I said, if the busybodies in Washington have their way, ALL CommNet sysops would be liable for any four-letter words spewed on these subboards.

Frankly I think that it takes a really insecure person to be so bent out of shape by adult language that they take legal action. All it takes is a zealous prosecutor to make it seem like any sysop is an avid dispatcher of filthy ascii, exposing minors to the twisted discussions of the warped adults who roam the subboards.

I've listened and read what these people think about computers. Legislators know NOTHING about BBSing. Any law they pass will eventually be a nightmare.

-Response #6 of 12-
By THE MAGE @ GIH
On Thu Oct 12, 1995 6:11 PM

Begin quoted text of SMS MIKE

We have been down this road many times in the past Sam. Personally, I have not noticed any words used in the posts that I have not heard on NBC, CBS and ABC television shows and the news.
Where would you care to draw the line Sam?

-end of quoted text-

Tainted argument Mike...it's akin to saying something like "Well Rush Limbaugh said it so it must be correct..." Duh...??

At any rate I use the George Carlin guideline myself...

You know, the seven words that couldn't be said on television?? With possibly the exception of '[[CENSORED!]]'. After all, '[[CENSORED!]]' is such a friendly

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Disk 06, Disk 07, and **Disk 08** - geoPaint and Photo Album files with the **great clip artwork featured on past LOADSTARS** - Includes GeoCurmudgeon, Anamalia I and II, Australian Animals, Valentine art and many more **#0017D5, #0018D5, #0019D5**

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word.

But the others with all the Rs and Cs in them should be left off the network.

If ya wouldn't say it in church standing next to yer wife, kids and clergy...ya don't need to say it to us.

Didn't we just have this argument over the network about a year ago?? Hmmmm..

-Response #7 of 12-
By BLACK SABER @ CHM
On Sat Oct 14, 1995 2:51 AM

Views on foul language have become quite liberal in the FCC's eyes. At one time I was a radio announcer & newsman and a personality was fired on the spot if he let a four letter word slip. If the slip was noticed & a complaint written to the FCC, the offender was fined or his license (FCC) was suspended or revoked. Now see what's on TV & listen to the radio these days. It's quite different from the strict laws I had to deal with in the 60s & 70s.

-Response #8 of 12-
By ARTLOVER @ DMB
On Sat Oct 14, 1995 2:54 AM

I for one would use public TV as my own guideline. If you can't say it on over-air, daytime/evening TV, then it's unacceptable. That's how I would define it.

Let me relate a story to you. On our BBS (Zeppelin), after the OJ decision, a lot of people posted on the wall. The problem was that many of the postings were nothing but racial slurs, insults, attacks on other users and the like. I won't quote any of it here, but suffice it to say, just about every word in the book was used. I made a message stating if I ever saw another sickening disgraceful outburst like that, I would take the wall down (or change it to one that can automatically censor user input).

One user replied "Censorship?"

No. Hardly. Censorship is the control of ideas & opinions. No one was/is being denied their right to express their opinion. But it's not necessary to insult, attack, offend, or alienate others in the process.

Freedom of speech does NOT give everyone the right to say anything they want, anytime they want, anywhere they want, in any form they choose.

Freedom of speech only ensure your right to express your views. But their are rules of conduct.

If you want total 100% free speech, then you'll have to eliminate our legal system. After all, that pro-lifer that blew up an abortion clinic is just expressing his views. A murderer is just expressing their views of dislike towards the person they killed... Etc...

Where do you want to draw the line. Good question. Just where DO you want to draw the line?

-Response #9 of 12-
By SMS MIKE @ DMB
On Sat Oct 14, 1995 2:56 AM

If ya wouldn't say it in church standing next to yer wife, kids and clergy...ya don't need to say it to us.

^ Quoted from THE MAGE @ GIH1 ^

Well guy, I don't attend any Church, and I don't have any respect what so ever for the clergy. As for my wife, she knows all the words and how to use them to the very best advantage possible; when required.

The kids instructed me in the fine art of using (up to date) profanity because they said that I was WAY behind on the latest way to "DIS" someone!

If it's used on NBC, CBS or ABC television, I don't have any problem with it being on the BBS. I will, however, delete a post that I consider to be profanity for the sake of profanity. In other words, the person used the words in an outright attempt to offend a majority of the readers OR the post/response was just outright vulgarity.

In any case, it's up to the individual SysOp to draw the line where he/she sees fit.

In the 11 years that I have been running a BBS, I have only found it necessary to delete (four) responses that fell into this category. One of them hit my system today. The post was designed to offend, and used words that were completely out of line.

The individual who wrote the response should be banned from the entire Network, but that isn't my responsibility. He isn't a user on my system!

SMS MIKE (SUPER Skumbag of the South)

-Response #10 of 12-
By FOXBAT @ ELY
On Tue Oct 17, 1995 6:43 AM

I think what you might be saying is let's not promote on our BBSs what you can and do hear on any public grade school playground today.

-Response #11 of 12-
By SMS MIKE @ DMB
On Wed Oct 18, 1995 4:48 AM

SMS, we all know that this world is not pretty, but that is no excuse for uglying it up some more! Foul language is just that - foul.

There is no need for profanity here. Besides, you and I do a good job of offending each other without four-letter words.

^ Quoted from THE FEZ @ LOAD ^

Fez my man, you have NEVER offended me in the total time we have been exchanging ideas on many subjects. It takes a whole bunch to offend me.

If the facts be known, I am so darn secure in my person that I don't think I can even be insulted (many have tried). I have been called every name in the book at one time or another. Sometimes it was just flat the truth. It's difficult to argue with the truth.. The only thing you can say is, "Yup, that's me," and press on with what ever you are doing.

I don't buy Jeff Jones' argument at all. I will make NO attempt to please an obvious prude. Fact is, I will go out of my way to make sure they feel uncomfortable every time they see me. The world can do without that type of person.

As for foul language and profanity, they don't exist. There are foul people and profane ideas. The language used to express these things can go in either direction. Even then, it's sometimes a toss-up. It depends upon who you are talking to and the situation you find yourself in.

My vocabulary is large enough to allow me to express most any idea without the use of profanity, but I will throw it in when I think it's necessary to make a point stick HARD. It's a judgement call; the risk is always mine.

SMS MIKE (SUPER Skumbag of the South)

Jeff: I have to admit that SMS Mike is often the unsurpassed voice of reason on CommNet. I admire the guy, but I wonder why he calls himself a Skumbag.

The posts above were all CommNet messages. The order in which LOADSTAR's BBS received them is not the order in which the arguments were made. That's why SMS Mike seemed to reply to Prism before he asked the question. The two are closer on the net.

Here is the title pic from LOADSTAR # 138, taken from The Compleat Walt graphic collection.

Are you an artist? *Do* you think your artwork should appear while LOADSTAR is booting? Then send it to us and let us review it! Oh, did I mention that we $paid$ for the art we use? You won't be able to buy a new car with the money, but you could at least order a nice lobster.

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You saw our huge list of new & used Commodore Hardware, software and accessories at bargain prices on LOADSTAR #135. We still have most of those items available. Call for latest prices and availability or send $1 for latest list to:

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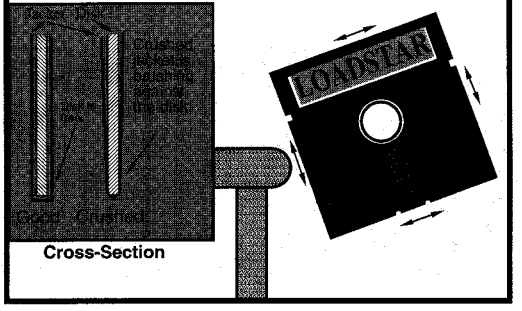
Every copy of LOADSTAR leaves J & F Publishing as a verified okay disk set. 3.5-inch disks are virtually trouble-free because they are difficult to damage, even when mishandled. Unfortunately some 5.25-inch disks may become crushed in the mail and give READ ERRORS because they have trouble spinning. Fixing these crushed disks is quite easy. Just run the areas indicated along a hard edge such as a table. This should uncrimp the disk.



Cross-Section

Letters To The Editor

Via LOADSTAR's BBS: 1-318-425-4382. Internet: loadstar@genie.geis.com. Pardon the finer print. There's a lot to cover on this page.

From: GANDALF:

I don't have a local access node for the Comnet. So dialing direct to LS is necessary. I appreciate the quick help and the great work that you are doing. Hope to hear from you again soon. Question, which online Network do you prefer that has the BEST C= support sigs nowadays? Delphi or Genie? I had been on Compuserve and Genie in the past, Compuserve seemed to daunting. But Genie was pretty cool for the C= Flagship. I have seen Delphi mentioned in the past in the LS letter and in the forum area of the LS disk. Is it the better of the 3 for C=users today and does it offer a C= user any kind of Internet access? Figured you would be the person to ask. Regardless of the online/phone charges what is the place for the C=user in the '90s?

Jeff: That's hard to say. It's a toss up between GEnie and Delphi, both of which have strong Commodore support. I'm on GEnie, as my Internet address suggests, but I've been in the Delphi Commodore arena more recently than GEnie's Commodore section, Known as the Flagship. This is because I've been locked out of it for the past two years or so due to a tiff I got into with the sysop, John Brown.

From: GANDALF

How can a paying user of a net NOT be able to access the Flagship area? Isn't that a little silly? I mean you are using a C-64/128 to call or are you using an IBM? Regardless you should be able to access it.

I find that a little weird. I kinda liked GEnie when I was there last and may rejoin it to expand my C= support base.

Jeff: It is indeed a silly situation, but nothing can be done to undue the stain on my handle. Only John Brown has the power. Up until the point I was locked out, John has warned me that my email was insulting (Email which I have a full archive of). But insulting Email is a system-wide offense, not a local one. Instead of complaining to GEnie that I was sending insulting Email, I was locked out of the flagship the next time I "bumped into" John Brown (JBEE). Our last Email was so terse that I dared not speak a word to him in the RTC room. I didn't even speak publicly. I was sending private messages to Brenda Gann, asking if she had received my mail yet. I was nailed in an online "sting" when I publicly said goodbye. I said not a word to John Brown.

After a "full review," GEnie refused to force his hand. They refused to look further into it even when I informed them that my lockout violated written terms of service, which starts at temporary suspension and/or "read only" status and escalates to permanent lockout or termination of all service if the misbehavior persists. I was warned by other sysops that GEnie would politely stand behind any action of its sysops, even in cases like these.

The only time it bothers me is when I need to download a C-64 tool and can't do it. I end up having to ask another user to Email the utility to me.

To this day I don't know exactly what I was accused of when I was locked out of GEnie's flagship area. Here's the last Email I received from John Brown, unedited except for spacing:

Item 3220910 93/11/04 02:48
From: C128.JBEE John Brown
To: J.JONES36 Jeffrey L. Jones
cc: COMMODORE$ Commodore 64/128 RoundTable Staff
F.TUCKER3 Fender K. Tucker

Sub: Loadstar

After talking to Fender today, I had not decided what to do and exactly how to handle this situation. You dropped by Wednesday's RTC right before it closed and when the room was almost empty you left this message:

==========

<[UH HUH] C128.JBEE> though I never use 1/2 the features like scripts and such like Doug does

<[UH HUH] C128.JBEE> I can c that :)
<[Barely Brend] B.GANN1> Mentioned it to the author, he thought no one else wanted control codes. Oh well.

<[UH HUH] C128.JBEE> well, I think he was probably just discouraged when you asked him

<J.JONES36> Well, the newsletter calls! Brenda, if it doesn't arrive in by Friday, I'll mail it again. I did write out the label by hand.

<[UH HUH] C128.JBEE> wouldnt hold it against him
<J.JONES36> Seeya.
<[Barely Brend] B.GANN1> Ok, thanks :D

01:02EST 11/04/93

==========

I am sure Fender understands your message. You think by now you would not seek to cause anymore friction between Loadstar and Parsec and make a bad case worse. You do not seem able to help yourself, so I am going to help both Loadstar and you.

Your account is now locked out of the Commodore page and your account has been put in READ only for the BB and your FF is being removed. This is being done to prevent any further damage to the relationship I have with Fender/Loadstar.

Because Fender is online, he will be providing the Loadstar support in your place, so the Loadstar category and library will stay up until Fender says otherwise.

Any further actions, words, or conflicts on your part will reflect badly on Loadstar and both Loadstar and yourself will be held accountable. You will find yourself in front of whoever owns Loadstar and explaining why your actions are worth the legal fees they are incurring and why a profitable relationship with Parsec was terminated because of your actions.

=END=

JEFF: Since then I've been 100% absolutely locked out. When I say "The newsletter calls," I mean that I had better get working on the newsletter. It's more polite than saying "This is a slow room. I'm leaving." As you can see in his letter, I was supposed to have meant something nefarious or personal when I said goodbye. Can you find an offense in the text? Can you find an accusation?

But it was good enough for GEnie.

That morning I also got a letter from R.KNOP, an assistant sysop to John Brown. His unedited letter speaks for itself:

GE Mail Item 5232871 93/11/04 07:45
From: R.KNOP1 Robert A. Knop
To: J.JONES36 Jeffrey L. Jones
cc: R.KNOP1 Robert A. Knop

Sub: LoadStar

Hi-
I have to admit to being completely befuddled by the conflict between you and JBEE recently. I hope there is a lot to it that is not being echoed to COMMODORE$, because a lot of what has transpired recently seems awfully irrational. For instance, the latest thing that's been echoed has JBEE reacting violently to your mere [mention] of the LoadStar newsletter, literally. If there isn't more going on here, then I'm having a very hard time understanding the overreaction.

Anyway, from what I've seen of this, it sure looks like you're getting repeatedly nailed, even when you sit back, admit you're wrong when you probably think you aren't, and try to patch things up. I sort of hope that there is more to this than I've seen, because otherwise I'm having a severely hard time understanding JBEE's actions. I got into an online fight myself (with lower stakes, since it wasn't the representative of a major C= publication fighting with the sysop of the Flagship and another C= publication). In that, it sure felt to me that rationality left the area very quickly, and that the other individual in the fight was a paragon of unreasonability.

The real reason I am writing this to you though: I've let JBEE know that I think I'm pretty much out of the C128 and geoProgramming game. I've effectively resigned from the FlagShip staff (which presumably means I will shortly be no longer receiving the Commodore$ mail). I did get your mail message some weeks back saying that LoadStar was looking for GEOS programs, and I have to admit, that gave me enough of a kick to seriously consider keeping going with the geoProgramming for a little while. Even thought about one or two interesting programs that I might be particularly qualified to write- but the truth is, the time and energy considerations that have led me to pulling out of the C128 game are still there.

Anyway, talk to you later.

-Rob

Jeff: This letter vindicates me, and I feel some release that it's now immortalized. Feel free to chastise TIMS@GENIE.GEIS.COM or FEEDBACK@GENIE.GEIS.COM for their inaction in this matter. In any case, that was my adventure with GEnie and "freedom online". Regardless of my status there, my GEnie Flagship days are over. If you're interested in GEnie's last word on the matter, here it is:

Item 8450148 95/05/10 13:02
From: TIMS Tim Shehane
To: LOADSTAR Online Support
cc: TIMS Tim Shehane
FEEDBACK GEnie Feedback

Sub: Commodore RoundTable

Hello,

The reason the account was locked out of the Commodore RoundTable, on GEnie, was stated in item 3220910 (dated November 4, 1993) which was sent via GE Mail.

After a full review of this situation, I can find no reason to reverse the decisions that were made at that time.

Regards, Tim Shehane GEnie Product Manager

*Last word on this from Jeff: I asked Tim to please explain **why** I was locked out since he did a "full review." He never got back to me. GEnie's reaction to this matter is the only thing I hold against the operation. Other than memories of this matter, I find GEnie quite useful for now.*

From: RANGE ROVER

I was just wondering if, now that CMD has announced the February Release of the 10 and 20 Mhz Super64 CPU Accelerator boards, is Loadstar going to test one of these out when BETA versions are available... if so are you guys going to test it on your BBS there... I would sure like to know long before I make a purchase of a unit like that for this BBS, I'm running IMAGE here.

Jeff: We'll most likely test the CPUs on our own systems to see how much they help productivity and to become familiar so that we can review them. We'll probably buy one later for the BBS. I currently use the 4MHZ accelerator whenever I weed the BBS. It can save me a half hour or more. CMD says they are keeping in contact with Image BBS authors for compatibility. I urge the Image makers to reciprocate. Compatibility is all but guaranteed by making sure networked BBSs are both operating at the same speed when sharing data.

Today I was editing a large Chinese Horoscope program, which had hundreds of lines to be edited. I would list a section of code and insert one CRSR-RIGHT before each line printed. Trouble was each time I pressed RETURN, it took two seconds to process the line. It became quite tedious waiting so much. I think I waited a total of ten munites. 30 seconds total would be better at #20MHZ!

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SpeedTerm (Abacus)	$25.00
SwiftLink RS-232 Cartridge (Up to 38.4K baud)	$39.95
SwiftLink Modem Cable (DB9-DB25)	$9.95

Games

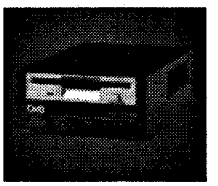
Atomino	$17.00
Ballistix	$13.00
Blood Money	$15.00
Chomp!	$10.00
Day in the Life of Prehistoric Man	**$19.00**
Escape Route	**$19.00**
Heavenbound	**$19.95**
Island of the Dragon	**$19.00**
Laser Squad	$13.00
Lions of the Universe	**$19.95**
Mainframe	$13.00
Menace	$15.00
Navy Seal	$10.00
Rings of Medusa	$16.00
RUN C128 Funpak	$15.00
RUN C64 Gamepak	$15.00
Skate or Die	$13.00
The Amazing Spider-Man	$15.00
The President Is Missing!	$10.00
The Three Stooges	$10.00
Tie Break Tennis	$16.00
Total Eclipse	$10.00
Ultima V	$17.00
Wings of Circe	**$19.00**
Wizardry 5: Heart of the Maelstrom	$24.00

JiffyDOS

Increase Speed Up to 1500% while retaining 100% compatibility

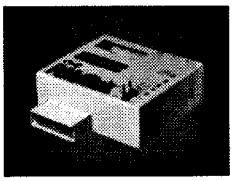
- Speeds up Loading, Saving, Verifying, Formatting and Reading/Writing of Program, Sequential, User and Relative files unlike cartridges which only speed up Loading and Saving of PRG files
- Built-in DOS Wedge plus 17 additional features including file copier, text dump, printer toggle, and redefinable function keys make using your computer easier and more convenient
- ROM upgrade installs easily into most computers and disk drives. Supports C-64, 64C, SX-64, C-128, 128-D, 1541, 1541C, 1541-II,1571, 1581 and more.

FD Series



3.2 and 1.6 MB 3.5" Floppy Drives

The FD-2000 and FD-4000 disk drives utilize today's latest 3.5 inch disk drive technology. FD-2000's support 800K (1581 style) and 1.6 MB (High Density) formats, while the FD-4000 also offers support for the 3.2 MB (Enhanced Density) disk format. Fast and reliable, they support 1541, 1571 and 1581 style partitions, Native Mode partitioning and can actually read and write 1581 disks. FD's feature built-in JiffyDOS, SWAP button and optional Real Time Clock. High capacity, speed and compatibility make the FD right for every application, including GEOS.

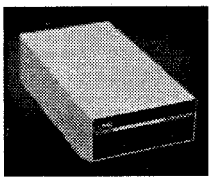


RAMLink

Power-Backed Expandable REU

The fastest possible form of storage, RAMLink provides instant access to files and retains data while your computer is turned off. Easy to use and expandable up to 16 MB, RAMLink utilizes the same powerful operating system found in CMD Hard Drives. Unlike Commodore REU's which are compatible with less than 1% of commercial software, RAMLink supports more than 80% of the commercial titles. RAMLink also offers built-in JiffyDOS Kernal, SWAP feature, reset button, enable/disable switch, pass-thru port and RAM port for REU/GEORAM use. RAMLink offers maximum speed, expandability and compatibility with all types of software and hardware including GEOS.

HD Series



SCSI Hard Drive for the C-64/128

HD Series Hard Drives are available in capacities up to 1 GB, are fully partitionable, and can emulate 1541, 1571, & 1581 disks while Native partitions utilize MS-DOS-style subdirectories. HD's connect easily to the serial bus or parallel via RAMLink. Includes built-in JiffyDOS, SWAP feature and RTC. HD's offer superior compatibility with most commercial software including BBS, Productivity and GEOS. And with new pricing, HD Series drives offer the lowest cost per megabyte of any C64/128 storage device.

Shipping and Handling Charges

Use the chart below to match your order subtotal with your shipping zone and method.

	Continental United States					
Order Subtotal	UPS Ground	2nd Day	Next Day	AK HI, PR	Canada	Foreign
$0.01 - $19.99	$3.00	$8.00	$17.00	$12.00	$5.00	$15.00
$20.00-$29.99	$5.00	$9.00	$18.00	$14.00	$7.00	$20.00
$30.00-$59.99	$6.00	$10.00	$20.00	$15.00	$9.00	$25.00
$60.00-$149.99	$8.00	$12.00	$23.00	$19.00	$12.00	$35.00
$150.00-$299.99	$10.00	$14.00	$27.00	$21.00	$20.00	$50.00
$300.00-$799.99	$15.00	$20.00	$34.00	$27.00	$25.00	$55.00
$800.00 +	$20.00	$25.00	$40.00	$32.00	$35.00	$60.00

UPS C.O.D. add $5.00 (U.S./PR only)

Payment and Delivery: CMD accepts MC, Visa, Money Orders, COD and Personal Checks. Personal Checks are held for up to 3 weeks. Most items are stock, contact CMD for current delivery schedules. Returns for merchandise credit only within 30 days with prior authorizations. All prices and specifications are subject to change without notice.

Creative Micro Designs, Inc.
P.O. Box 646
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
Info: (413) 525-0023
Fax: (413) 525-0147